



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Saratoga National Historical Park

Final Environmental Impact Statement
for the General Management Plan

2004

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Prepared by:
Northeast Region, Boston Office
Saratoga National Historical Park
2004

Contact:
Superintendent
Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, New York 12170-1604
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ABSTRACT: The proposals presented and analyzed establish future management directions for Saratoga National Historical Park, consistent with National Park Service policies. The primary action of the general management plan is to prescribe, for designated management areas, objectives for resource management, visitor use and experience, and cooperative efforts and partnerships. The approach taken is general; the plan is not detailed, specific, or technical in nature, nor are there detailed or site-specific proposals to analyze. The plan calls for additional environmental analysis when specific actions are proposed in the park. Public and agency review and comment did not result in substantial modifications to any of the alternatives or to the environmental analysis presented in the draft environmental impact statement, so an abbreviated format is used for the final environmental impact statement.

BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

This document is a final environmental impact statement (EIS) that follows public review of the Saratoga National Historical Park draft general management plan (GMP) and draft EIS. Because public and agency comments did not substantially modify any of the alternatives or the environmental analysis in the draft EIS, the full text of the draft has not been reprinted. Rather, the materials in this document, combined with the draft GMP / draft EIS, serve as an abbreviated final EIS.

The final EIS was developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to describe the environmental consequences of potential actions proposed in the GMP, and to show how comments from the public influenced changes made in the proposals. Federal regulations include an option for responding to public comment on draft EISs when few changes result from those comments. The relevant section of these regulations (CFR 1503.4) states that if changes in response to public comments are minor and confined to factual corrections or explanations of why comments do not warrant further agency response, they may be written on errata sheets instead of rewriting, reprinting, and distributing the entire revised EIS. The following errata sheets are an attachment to the draft EIS.

DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document has been distributed to the officials, agencies, tribes, and organizations listed in the consultation and coordination section of the errata to supplement the draft GMP / draft EIS distributed previously. This document has also been distributed to all individuals who commented on the draft plan.

This document, along with the draft GMP / draft EIS, is posted on line at www.planning.nps.gov. To obtain a printed copy of this document, contact the **Superintendent at 648 Route 32, Stillwater, New York, 12170-1604, or call (518) 664-9821**. Copies will be sent to those who request them until the current supply is exhausted.

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

This document must be used in conjunction with the draft GMP/draft EIS for the Saratoga National Historical Park. The two documents together constitute the final EIS for the plan. Corrections to the text are noted by page, paragraph number, and sentence number of the draft GMP / draft EIS. In certain instances, the whole paragraph is reprinted to provide context for the reader. A partial paragraph at the top of a page in the draft GMP/draft EIS is counted as the first paragraph, and a bulleted statement is considered a whole paragraph.

Text that has been deleted is shown by a strikeout and added text is underlined. Changes of entire paragraphs or sentences are indicated by, “delete,” “replace,” or “add.” Typographical, spelling, and punctuation errors are not changed unless necessary to make the passage understandable, or unless a proper noun was misspelled. This document contains four parts:

- *Cover Sheet*: includes the responsible agency, contact information, and abstract.
- *Background*: describes the elements in the abbreviated final EIS.
- *Errata*: shows corrections and revisions to the draft GMP / draft EIS for Saratoga National Historical Park.
- *Comments and Responses*: outlines the oral comments received at the public open house with responses and contains copies of the comment letters received with responses.

ERRATA

INSIDE COVER

~~Draft~~ General Management Plan and ~~Draft~~ Final Environmental Impact Statement

Prepared by:

Northeast Region, Boston Office

Saratoga National Historical Park

20034

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Delete page

MAP LEGENDS

Pages 5, 11, 13, 15, 21, 23, 25, 61, 99, 107, 109:

~~Draft~~ General Management Plan 20034

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Page v, replace 10th paragraph, under heading “Potential Environmental Impacts” with the following:

The potential impacts of the alternatives were evaluated and an analysis of impacts is included in the ~~draft~~ final EIS. Potential impacts on cultural resources, natural resources, visitor use and experience, park operations, and the socioeconomic environment were considered in the environmental analysis. Potential cumulative and unavoidable adverse effects were also evaluated. Overall, Alternative D provided the greatest number of beneficial impacts in comparison to the other alternatives. The number of adverse impacts associated with Alternative D was comparable to the other alternatives. Most, however, were negligible or minor. Alternative D has been identified as the environmentally preferred alternative.

In January 2004, the draft GMP / draft EIS was released for public review. A total of 2000 draft plan summary newsletters were distributed along with over 60 copies of the full draft plan. Both the summary newsletter and the full draft plan were available on the web and at area libraries. The team held a public open house at the park visitor center, which was attended by some 45 people. Over the course of the 60-day period (January—March 2004), a total of 32 written comments were received. Oral and written comments were considered by the National Park Service and informed the preparation of the final environmental impact statement. The consensus of the public comment period was that the National Park Service was pursuing the correct path for Saratoga National Historical Park in Alternative D, the preferred alternative.

An abbreviated format has been used for the final EIS because changes to the draft GMP/draft EIS are confined primarily to factual corrections and explanations as to why comments do not warrant further agency response. Use of this format is in compliance with the 1978 regulations (40 CFR 1503.4[c]) for the National Environmental Policy Act.

Page v, replace 11th paragraph, under the heading “Next Steps” with the following:

The final EIS will be made available to the public for 30 days, after which time a record of decision will be prepared. The record of decision, once approved by the Northeast Regional Director, will complete the National Environmental Policy Act process.

PART ONE: BACKGROUND

Page 19, replace 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence with the following:

A 26-acre portion of the The 30-acre Schuyler Estate was acquired in 1950, as authorized under 1948 legislation.

Page 40, replace 4th paragraph, including heading with the following:

~~Old Saratoga/New Schuylerville Pocket Parks Initiative~~ Old Saratoga on the Hudson

Old Saratoga on the Hudson, an unincorporated civic group, is spearheading the development of a three-and-one-half-mile linear park along the Hudson River in and around the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory. One of the group's goals is to work in partnership with others to create a seamless experience for visitors who are interested in learning not only about the Old Saratoga area's role in the Revolutionary War, but about the entire history of the region from the French and Indian Wars to the development of the Champlain Canal and beyond.

Page 40, replace 5th paragraph, including heading with the following:

~~Special Places and Protected Land Initiative of the Land Trust of the Saratoga Region-~~ Saratoga P.L.A.N.

Saratoga P.L.A.N. (Preserving Land and Nature) is a private, nonprofit organization committed to the protection and conservation of lands with natural, scenic, agricultural, recreational, historic, and open-space value. The organization has identified critical areas in need of protection within Saratoga County and is working in cooperation with developers, property owners, municipalities, farmers, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and others to preserve and protect these critical areas.

PART TWO: THE ALTERNATIVES AND THEIR COMMON ELEMENTS

Page 56, replace two last full sentences with the following:

For example, views east to the ridgeline in Easton, New York, and views south and west across Route 32 are within important park viewsheds. They can be seen from numerous points within the park.

Page 58, replace 2nd paragraph with the following:

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1970 requires that alternative management schemes be developed in a ~~draft~~ general management plan to set forth a reasonable range of ideas for managing the park. All alternatives, though diverse, should be feasible. If park management is leaning toward one of the alternatives, regulations require that the ~~draft~~ plan identify the Preferred Alternative for the benefit of the public. Regulations also require that there be a no-action alternative presented, meaning a direction that would retain the existing status, with no major change in park management philosophy. In this ~~draft~~ plan, Alternative A: Focus on Current Management Objectives serves as the no-action alternative required by NEPA. Although Alternative A serves as the no-action alternative, its objectives (or management prescriptions) include many improvements in continuation of existing policies, but no new major changes in management direction or philosophy.

Page 66, replace the 5th item in right column under Alternative A: Cooperative Efforts and Partnerships (Parkwide) with the following:

Continue to work with volunteers, reenactor groups, the Old Saratoga Historical Association, the Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield, and others to improve living history and educational programs.

Page 67, replace the 5th paragraph, 3rd sentence under Alternative B: Focus on the Battles, Siege, and Surrender with the following:

At the Schuyler Estate, the house would be preserved and a combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media ~~installed~~ utilized to best portray General Philip Schuyler's military, civic, and entrepreneurial roles.

Page 69, replace the 1st item in right column under Alternative B: Visitor Use and Experience (Historic Zone: Schuyler Estate Subzone) with the following:

~~Install~~ Utilize a combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media in Schuyler House that best describes Schuyler's civic, military, and entrepreneurial roles.

Page 71, replace the 7th item in right column under Alternative B: Cooperative Efforts and Partnerships (Parkwide) with the following:

Continue to work with volunteers, reenactor groups, the Old Saratoga Historical Association, the Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield, and others to improve living history and educational programs.

Page 72, replace the 4th paragraph, 8th sentence under Alternative C: Focus on the Park as Memorial Grounds with the following:

A combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media would be ~~installed~~ utilized in the house that best portrays the story of the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga.

Page 75, replace the 1st item in right column under Alternative C: Visitor Use and Experience (Historic Zone: Schuyler Estate Subzone) with the following:

~~Install~~ Utilize a combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media in Schuyler House ~~and~~ that best describes the story of the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga.

Page 77, replace the 9th item in right column under Alternative C: Cooperative Efforts and Partnerships (Parkwide) with the following:

Continue to work with volunteers, reenactor groups, the Old Saratoga Historical Association, the Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield, and others to improve living history and educational programs.

Page 79, replace 3rd paragraph, 6th sentence under Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign with the following:

A combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media would be ~~installed~~ utilized in the house that best portrays the story of the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga.

Page 82, replace 1st item in right column under Alternative D: Visitor Use and Experience (Historic Zone: Schuyler Estate Subzone) with the following:

~~Install~~ Utilize a combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media in Schuyler House that best describes the story of the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga.

Page 83, replace 4th item in right column under Alternative D: Cooperative Efforts and Partnerships (Parkwide) with the following:

Through cooperative efforts, encourage the perpetuation of the rural landscape character of views east to the ridgeline across the Hudson and views south and west to the ridgeline across Route 32.

Page 83, replace 7th item in right column under Alternative D: Cooperative Efforts and Partnerships (Parkwide) with the following:

Continue to work with volunteers, reenactor groups, the Old Saratoga Historical Association, the Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield, and others to improve living history and educational programs.

Page 89, add to 3rd item under Summary of Potential Boundary Modifications:

A minor boundary modification would be required to enhance access to the Taylor House site and the Hudson River. A minor boundary modification may require either administrative or legislative action, depending upon the specific circumstances of the lands under consideration.

Page 89, add to 5th items under Summary of Potential Boundary Modifications pertaining to Alternative B and Alternative D:

A minor boundary modification would be required to improve the Route 32 entry. A minor boundary modification may require either administrative or legislative action, depending upon the specific circumstances of the lands under consideration.

PART THREE: AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Page 96, replace 3rd paragraph, 1st sentence with the following:

The historic landscape known as the Schuyler Estate encompasses ~~30.38~~ 62.15 acres of General Philip Schuyler's original 3,000-acre estate in Schuylerville (formerly Old Saratoga).

Page 99, correct the map text as follows:

Correct spelling: "Kosciuszko"

Correct title: "Daughters of the American Revolution"

Correct text, "TO THE BATTLEFIELD, DAR markers erected on the carriage route from Saratoga Springs to the battlefield."

Page 133, replace 1st paragraph, 1st sentence with the following:

The planning team eliminated certain impact topics from further evaluation in the ~~draft~~ final environmental impact statement.

PART FOUR: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Page 139, replace 1st paragraph with the following:

The ~~draft~~ final environmental impact statement for the general management plan has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of ~~1969~~ 1970, as amended, which requires the evaluation of potential impacts resulting from federal actions or lands involving federal jurisdiction. It has been prepared in conjunction with the ~~draft~~ general management plan.

Page 154, replace 5th (final) paragraph with the following:

Under all alternatives, the park would continue to work with volunteers, reenactor groups, the Old Saratoga Historical Association, the Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield, and others to improve public access, living history, and interpretive and educational programs.

Page 156, replace 1st paragraph, last sentence with the following:

The work of land conservation organizations, including the ~~Land Trust of the Saratoga Region~~ Saratoga P.L.A.N., which works to protect areas in critical need, will help, to a limited extent, to diminish the adverse effects associated with the advance of residential development.

Page 156, replace 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence with the following:

Such initiatives include: the National Park Service's Revolutionary War & War of 1812 Study, the Champlain Valley Heritage Corridor Study, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the Heritage New York Program, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Lakes to Locks Passage, the Mohawk Valley Heritage Area, the New York Independence Trail, the New York State Canal Recreationway Plan, and ~~the Old Saratoga/New Schuylerville Pocket Parks Initiative~~ Old Saratoga on the Hudson.

Page 171, replace 7th paragraph with the following:

~~Installing~~ Utilizing a combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media in the Schuyler House might require relocation of certain museum objects within the Schuyler House: the impacts associated with the potential relocation of museum objects are the same as in Alternative A.

Page 175, replace 2nd paragraph, 1st and 2nd sentences with the following:

Under this alternative, the park would ~~install~~ utilize interpretive ~~displays~~ media in the Schuyler House. The ~~displays~~ media would be based on extant Schuyler documents and comparative inventories.

Page 179, replace 5th (final) paragraph, 2nd sentence with the following:

Such initiatives include: the National Park Service's Revolutionary War & War of 1812 Study, the Champlain Valley Heritage Corridor Study, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the Heritage

New York Program, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Lakes to Locks Passage, the Mohawk Valley Heritage Area, the New York Independence Trail, the New York State Canal Recreationway Plan, and ~~the Old Saratoga/New Schuylerville Pocket Parks Initiative~~ Old Saratoga on the Hudson.

Page 181, replace 7th bulleted point with the following:

~~Install~~ Utilize combination of interpretive media in the Schuyler House.

Page 182, replace 7th bulleted point with the following:

~~Install~~ Utilize combination of interpretive media in the Schuyler House.

Page 185, replace 2nd paragraph with the following:

~~Installing~~ Utilizing a combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media in the Schuyler House might require relocation of certain museum objects within the Schuyler House: the impacts associated with the potential relocation of museum objects are the same as in Alternative A.

Page 192, replace 5th paragraph, 2nd sentence with the following:

Such initiatives include: the National Park Service's Revolutionary War & War of 1812 Study, the Champlain Valley Heritage Corridor Study, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the Heritage New York Program, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Lakes to Locks Passage, the Mohawk Valley Heritage Area, the New York Independence Trail, the New York State Canal Recreationway Plan, and ~~the Old Saratoga/New Schuylerville Pocket Parks Initiative~~ Old Saratoga on the Hudson.

Page 193, replace 7th bulleted point with the following:

~~Install~~ Utilize combination of interpretive media in the Schuyler House.

Page 196, replace 9th paragraph with the following:

~~Install~~ Utilize new interpretive media in the Schuyler House: the impacts associated with the potential relocation of museum objects are the same as in Alternative A.

Pages 200–201, replace final paragraph, 2nd sentence on page 200 and 1st paragraph, 1st sentence on page 201 with the following:

Such initiatives include: the National Park Service's Revolutionary War & War of 1812 Study, the Champlain Valley Heritage Corridor Study, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the Heritage New York Program, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Lakes to Locks Passage, the Mohawk Valley Heritage Area, the New York Independence Trail, the New York State Canal Recreationway Plan, and ~~the Old Saratoga/New Schuylerville Pocket Parks Initiative~~ Old Saratoga on the Hudson.

Page 202, replace 9th bulleted point with the following:

~~Install~~ Utilize combination of interpretive media in the Schuyler House.

PART FIVE: CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Page 208, replace 3rd paragraph with the following:

The draft GMP / draft EIS was available for public review for 60 days (January—March 2004). During that period, a total of 2000 draft plan summary newsletters were distributed along with over 60 copies of the full draft plan. Both the summary newsletter and the full draft plan were available on the web and at area libraries. On January 22, 2004, the team held a public open house at the park visitor center, which was attended by some 45 people. Over the course of the public comment period, a total of 32 written comments were received. Oral and written comments were considered by the National Park Service and informed the preparation of the final EIS. After a 30-day no-action period, a record of decision will be prepared to document the selected management option and set forth any stipulations for implementation of the general management plan, thus completing the environmental compliance requirements.

Pages 211 and 212, replace list with the following:

LIST OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT RECIPIENTS

Following is a list of agencies, organizations, and individuals to which the final EIS will be distributed.

Agencies and Organizations:

Adirondack North Country
Adirondack Park Agency
Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce
Adirondack Regional Tourism Council
Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Bateaux Below, Inc.
Center for Heritage Education & Tourism
Champlain Valley Heritage Network
Chimney Point State Historic Site
Crown Point State Historic Site
Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
Feeder Canal Alliance
Fort Edward–Rogers Island Visitor Center
Fort Stanwix National Monument
Fort Ticonderoga
Fort William Henry Museum
Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley
Heritage New York
Hudson Crossing Bi-County Park
Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council
Independence Trail
Lake Champlain Basin Program
Lakes to Locks–North
Lakes to Locks–South
Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission
New York State Canal Corporation
New York State Canal Improvement Association
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Military Heritage Institute
New York State Museum
Northern Frontier Project
Old Saratoga Chamber of Commerce
Old Saratoga Historical Association
Old Saratoga on the Hudson
~~Old Saratoga/New Schuylerville Association~~
Saratoga Chamber of Commerce
Saratoga Convention and Tourism Bureau
Saratoga County Board of Supervisors
Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce
Saratoga County Historian
Saratoga County Planning Office
Saratoga National Cemetery
Saratoga Springs Visitor Center

Saratoga Town Historian
Schuyler’s Canal Park
Southern Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce
State of Vermont, Division for Historic Preservation
Stillwater Historical Society
Stillwater Blockhouse
Stockbridge Munsee Tribal Council
Town of Easton
Town of Greenwich
Town of Saratoga
Town of Stillwater
Saratoga County Board of Supervisors
Saratoga Town Historian
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Village of Schuylerville
Village of Stillwater
Village of Victory
Washington County Planning Office
Washington County Tourism Association
Waterford Harbor Visitor Center
Whitehall Urban Cultural Park

Individuals:

L&J Alheim
Ray Beede
J. Borel
Richard Crammond
Helen Crawshaw
Lawrence A. DeLong
George DeMere
Mildred and Nelson Drew
C.R. Fosdick
Dr. Glenn Haas
William M. Herrlich
C.A. Holmes
Dan Hughes
Nicholas Mancinelli
David Mathis
Nick Nichols
Patti Nichols
Matilda J. and Herbert B. Nolte
Barbara Putnam
Robert K. Radliff, Jr.
Scott Stoner
Steve Trim

Page 214, under the heading National Park Service Advisors add the following:
Terrence Moore, Chief, Park Planning & Special Studies, Northeast Region

PART SIX: APPENDICES

Page 218, Appendix A: Park Legislation, insert page with the following excerpt from 1948 legislation:
52 Stat. 609

Section 2:

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept all or any portion of the General Philip Schuyler Mansion property, real and personal, situated at Schuylerville, New York, comprising approximately fifty acres, and also donations of additional land, interests in land, buildings, structures, and other property in Saratoga County. The authority to acquire property, contained in section 2 of the Act of June 1, 1938, and be utilized by the Secretary of the Interior in carrying out the purposes of this Act. These properties, upon acquisition by the United States, shall become a part of Saratoga National Historical Park, that total area of which however, shall not exceed five thousand five hundred acres. (16 USC 159d).

Pages 245—248, Appendix C: Glossary, add:

herbaceous forbs—Herbaceous forbs are non-woody, broad-leaf plants often referred to as wildflowers or weeds. The general term “forb” refers to any herbaceous, broadleaf, dicotyledon without regard to family classification.

interpretive media—Interpretive media are the tools the National Park Service uses to interpret park resources, teach concepts, and stimulate interest. Interpretive media can include furnishings, exhibits, waysides, film, video, as well as publications.

Schuyler House—The present Schuyler House is the third to be built on what was the Schuyler family property. Lieutenant General Schuyler and his family lived at this estate periodically both before and after the 1777 campaign. The present house was built following the surrender, as Lieutenant General Burgoyne had the house and outbuildings burned as he retreated. The National Park Service has restored both the house exterior and interior. The completed exterior appearance reflects a circa-1804 period (the year Schuyler died). Interior restoration work seeks to reflect conditions circa-1777–87 (the General turned the house over to his son in 1787). Many of the furnishings currently in the house are on long-term loan to the National Park Service by the Old Saratoga Historical Association, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, as well as the Museum of the City of New York.

Schuyler House grounds—The maintained landscape area around the Schuyler House owned by the National Park Service. Bounded by Fish Creek, Route 4, and the New York State Department of Transportation Maintenance Yard access road and security fence.

Schuyler Estate—The Schuyler Estate is an historic landscape that is a remnant of General Philip Schuyler’s original 3,000-acre estate. The National Park Service owns 30.38 of the Schuyler Estate’s legislated 62.15 acres. The Schuyler Estate includes the Schuyler House and immediate grounds. It is essentially the “house-lot” of the original Schuyler landholdings.